

REMARKS


In the outstanding Official Action, claims 7, 17 and 18 were objected to because of the noted informalities. In response, these claims have been amended as suggested in the Action, and it is respectfully submitted that claims 7, 17 and 18, as herein amended, are now in proper form.

On the merits, all of the claims except 1, 2 and 16 were indicated to be allowed or allowable, while claims 1, 2 and 16 were rejected over the indicated art for the reasons of record.

In response, and in order to put the instant application in condition for allowance, claims 1 and 3 are herewith cancelled, without prejudice, and the limitation of allowable claim 3 has been added to independent claims 2 and 16. Upon entry of this amendment, it is therefore respectfully submitted that all of the currently-pending claims will contain allowable subject matter.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that allowance of the instant application is fully justified at this time and favorable consideration is earnestly solicited.

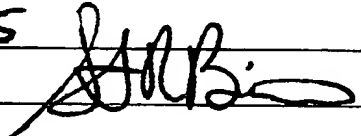
Respectfully submitted,

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March 8, 2005

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

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